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9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
10	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
11	JONATHAN GABRIELLI, an individual, on	CASE NO.		
12	behalf of himself, the general public, and those similarly situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR		
13	Plaintiff,	INVASION OF PRIVACY; INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION; WIRETAPPING IN		
14	v.	VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA INVASION OF PRIVACY ACT		
15	HALEON US INC.,	(CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE § 631); USE OF A PEN REGISTER IN VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA		
16	Defendant.	INVASION OF PRIVACY ACT (CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE § 638.51);		
17		COMMON LAW FRAUD, DECEIT AND/OR MISREPRESENTATION;		
18		UNJUST ENRICHMENT; AND TRESPASS TO CHATTELS		
19		JURY TRIAL DEMANDED		
20				
21				
22				
23				
24   25				
25 26				
26 27				
28				
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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCT	ION			
THE PARTIE	S			
JURISDICTIO	ON AND VENUE			
SUBSTANTI	VE ALLEGATIONS			
A.	Defendant Programmed the Websites to Include Third-Party Resources that Utilize Cookie Trackers.			
В.	B. Defendant Falsely Informed Users That They Could Reject the Websites' Use Cookies.			
C. The Private Communications Collected As a Result of Third Party Cookie Transmitted When Visiting Defendant's Websites				
	1. Google YouTube Cookies			
	2. Microsoft Clarity Cookies			
	3. RevTrax Cookies			
D.	The Private Communications Collected are Valuable			
PLAINTIFF'S	S EXPERIENCES2			
TOLLING	2			
CLASS ALLE	EGATIONS2			
CAUSES OF	ACTION2			
First C	ause of Action: Invasion of Privacy2			
Second	d Cause of Action: Intrusion Upon Seclusion			
Third (	Third Cause of Action: Wiretapping in Violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act (California Penal Code § 631)			
Fourth Cause of Action: Use of a Pen Register in Violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act (California Penal Code § 638.51)				
Fifth C	Fifth Cause of Action: Common Law Fraud, Deceit and/or Misrepresentation3			
Sixth (	Sixth Cause of Action: Unjust Enrichment			
Sevent	h Cause of Action: Trespass to Chattels4			
	- 2 -			

Plaintiff Jonathan Gabrielli ("Plaintiff") brings this action on behalf of himself, the general public, and all others similarly situated against Haleon US Inc. ("Defendant" or "Haleon"). Plaintiff's allegations against Defendant are based upon information and belief and upon investigation of Plaintiff's counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff's personal knowledge.

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. This Class Action Complaint concerns an egregious privacy violation and total breach of consumer trust in violation of California law. When consumers visit Defendant's websites (including, tums.com; advil.com; centrum.com; theraflu.com; caltrate.com; flonase.com; sensodyne.com; and emergenc.com; each a "Website" and collectively, the "Websites"), Defendant displays to them a popup cookie consent banner. Defendant's cookie banners disclose that the Websites use cookies but expressly gives users the option to control how they are tracked and how their personal data is used. Defendant assures visitors that they can choose to "Reject All" cookies as shown in the following screenshot:

We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience by remembering your preferences and repeat visits. Cookies are enabled by default, however, you may visit your Cookie Settings to opt-out of cookie usage by category. Read our Privacy Policy

### Cookie Settings



### **Accept Cookies**

2. Like most internet websites, Defendant designed the Websites to include resources and programming scripts from third parties that enable those parties to place cookies and other similar tracking technologies on visitors' browsers and devices and/or transmit cookies along with user data. However, unlike other websites, Defendant's Websites offer consumers a choice to browse without being tracked, followed, and targeted by third party data brokers and advertisers. However, Defendant's promises are outright lies, designed to lull users into a false sense of security. Even after users elect to "Reject All" cookies, Defendant surreptitiously enables several third parties – including Google LLC (YouTube), Microsoft Corporation

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(Clarity), and Neptune Retail Solutions (RevTrax) (the "Third Parties") – to place and/or transmit cookies that track users' website browsing activities and eavesdrop on users' private communications on the Websites.

- 3. Contrary to their express rejection of cookies and tracking technologies on the Websites, Defendant nonetheless caused cookies, including the Third Parties' cookies, to be sent to Plaintiff and other visitors' browsers, stored on their devices, and transmitted to the Third Parties along with user data. These third-party cookies permitted the Third Parties to track and collect data in real time regarding Website visitors' behaviors and communications, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data.
- The Third Parties analyze and aggregate this user data across websites and time for their own purposes and financial gain, including, creating consumer profiles containing detailed information about a consumer's behavior, preferences, and demographics; creating audience segments based on shared traits (such as Millennials, tech enthusiasts, etc.); and performing targeted advertising and marketing analytics. Further, the Third Parties share user data and/or user profiles to unknown parties to further their financial gain.
- 5. This type of tracking and data sharing is exactly what the Website visitors who clicked or selected the "Reject All" button on the Websites' cookie consent banners sought to avoid. Defendant falsely told Website users that it respected their privacy and that they could avoid tracking and data sharing when they browsed the Websites. Despite receiving notice of consumers' express declination of consent, Defendant defied it and violated state statutes, and tort duties.

### THE PARTIES

6. Plaintiff Jonathan Gabrielli is, and was at all relevant times, an individual and resident of Oakland, California. Plaintiff intends to remain in California and makes his permanent home there.

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7. Defendant Haleon US Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its headquarters and principal place of business in Warren, New Jersey.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 8. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2). The aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs; and Plaintiff and Defendant are citizens of different states.
- 9. The injuries, damages and/or harm upon which this action is based, occurred or arose out of activities engaged in by Defendant within, affecting, and emanating from, the State of California. Defendant regularly conducts and/or solicits business in, engages in other persistent courses of conduct in, and/or derives substantial revenue from products and services provided to persons in the State of California. Defendant has engaged, and continues to engage, in substantial and continuous business practices in the State of California.
- 10. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the state of California, including within this District.
  - 11. Plaintiff accordingly alleges that jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court.

### **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

- **Defendant Programmed the Websites to Include Third-Party Resources** Α. that Utilize Cookie Trackers.
- 12. Every website, including the Websites, is hosted by a server that sends and receives communications in the form of HTTP requests, such as "GET" or "POST" requests, to and from Internet users' browsers. For example, when a user clicks on a hyperlink on a Website, the user's browser sends a "GET" request to the Website's server. The GET request tells the Websites server what information is being requested (e.g., the URL of the webpage being requested) and instructs the Website's server to send the information back to the user (e.g., the content of the webpage being requested). When the Website server receives an HTTP request, it processes that request and sends back an HTTP response. The HTTP request includes the client's IP address so that the Website server to knows where to send the HTTP response.

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- 13. An IP address (Internet Protocol address) is a unique numerical label assigned to each device connected to a network that uses the Internet Protocol for communication, typically expressed as four sets of numbers separated by periods (e.g., 192.168.123.132 for IPv4 addresses). IP addresses can identify the network a device is on and the specific device within that network. Public IP addresses used for internet-facing devices reveal geographical locations, such as country, city, or region, through IP geolocation databases.
- Defendant voluntarily integrated "third-party resources" from the Third Parties 14. into the Websites' programming. "Third-party resources" refer to tools, content or services provided by third-parties, such as analytics tools, advertising networks, or payment processors, that a website developer utilizes by embedding scripts, styles, media, or application programming interface (API) into the website's code. Defendant's use of the third-party resources on the Websites is done so pursuant to agreements between Defendant and those Third Parties.
- 15. The Websites cause users' devices to store and/or transmit both first-party and third-party tracking cookies. Cookies are small text files sent by a website server to a user's web browser and stored locally on the user's device. As described below, cookies generally contain a unique identifier which enables the website to recognize and differentiate individual users. Cookie files are sent back to the website server along with HTTP requests, enabling the website to identify the device making the requests, and to record a session showing how the user interacts with the website.
- 16. First-party cookies are those that are placed on the user's browser directly by the web server with which the user is knowingly communicating (in this case, the Websites' servers). First-party cookies are used to track users when they repeatedly visit the same website.
- 17. A third-party cookie is set by a third-party domain/webserver (e.g., www.youtube.com; irxcm.com; clarity.ms, etc.). When the user's browser loads a webpage (such as a webpage of the Websites) containing embedded third-party resources, the third-parties' programming scripts typically issue HTTP commands to determine whether the third-party

cookies are already stored on the user's device and to cause the user's browser to store those cookies on the device if they do not yet exist. Third-party cookies include an identifier that allows the third-party to recognize and differentiate individual users across websites (including the Websites) and across multiple browsing sessions.

- 18. As described further below, the third-party cookies stored on and/or loaded from users' devices when they interact with the Websites are transmitted to those third parties, enabling them to surreptitiously track in real time and collect Website users' personal information, such as their browsing activities and private communications with Defendant, including the following:
  - Browsing History: Information about the webpages a Website user visits, including the URLs, titles, and keywords associated with the webpages viewed, time spent on each page, and navigation patterns;
  - Visit History: Information about the frequency and total number of visits to the Websites;
  - Website Interactions: Data on which links, buttons, or ads on the Websites that a user clicks;
  - User Input Data: The information the user entered into the Websites' form fields, including search queries, the user's name, age, gender, email address, location, and/or payment information;
  - **Demographic Information**: Inferences about age, gender, and location based on browsing habits and interactions with Websites' content;
  - **Interests and Preferences**: Insights into user interests based on the types of Website content viewed, products searched for, or topics engaged with;
  - **Shopping Behavior**: Information about the Website products viewed or added to shopping carts;
  - **Device Information**: Details about the Website user's device, such as the type of device (mobile, tablet, desktop), operating system, and browser type;

actions taken on the Websites during that session;

- Websites;

  Session Information: Details about the user's current Website browsing session, including the exact date and time of the user's session, the session duration and
- User Identifiers: A unique ID that is used to recognize and track a specific Website user across different websites over time; and

Referring URL: Information about the website that referred the user to the

• **Geolocation Data**: General location information based on the Website user's IP address or GPS data, if accessible.

(Collectively, the browsing activities and private communications listed in the bullet points above shall be referred to herein as "Private Communications").

- 19. Third-party cookies can be used for a variety of purposes, including (i) analytics (e.g., tracking and analyzing visitor behavior, user engagement, and effectiveness of marketing campaigns); (ii) personalization (e.g., remembering a user's browsing history and purchase preferences to enable product recommendations); (iii) advertising/targeting (e.g., delivering targeted advertisements based on the user's consumer profile (i.e., an aggregated profile of the user's behavior, preferences, and demographics); and (iv) social media integration (e.g., enabling sharing of users' activities with social media platforms). Ultimately, third-party cookies are utilized to boost website performance and revenue through the collection, utilization, and dissemination of user data.
- 20. Defendant specializes in consumer health care products, such as digestive heath (tums.com); oral health (sensodyne.com); pain relief (advil.com); vitamins, minerals, and supplements (emergenc.com, caltrate.com and centrum.com); and respiratory health (flonase.com and theraflu.com). Defendant owns and operates the Websites, which allow visitors to receive information about its products and learn how to purchase its products. As they interact with the Websites (e.g., by entering data into forms, clicking on links, and making selections), Website users communicate Private Communications to Defendant, including their browsing

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history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data.

- Defendant chose to install or integrate the Websites with resources from the Third 21. Parties that, among other things, use cookies. Thus, when consumers visit the Websites, both first-party cookies and third-party cookies are placed on their devices and/or transmitted. This is caused by software code that Defendant incorporates into its Websites, or that Defendant causes to be loaded. Because Defendant controls the software code of its Websites, it has complete control over whether first-party and third-party cookies are placed on its users' devices and/or transmitted to third parties.
- 22. Defendant explained the third-party cookies it used on the Websites as follows in its Privacy Notice:

Our websites and mobile applications may use technology called "cookies", web beacons, pixels, and similar technologies. A cookie is a small text file that is placed on your hard disk by a server. Cookies and similar technologies allow our websites and mobile applications to load content, remember your preferences, keep you signed into your account, save your shopping cart, and provide a more personalized experience. They also let us generate information about website traffic and trends, and to verify your viewing and/or receipt of communications...

We use third-party analytics. We use automated applications to evaluate usage of our website, such as Google Analytics, a web analytics service provided by Google, Inc. We may also use other analytic means to evaluate our websites and services. We use these tools to help us improve the websites, performance and user experiences.

Google Analytics uses cookies to analyze use patterns and may collect information about your use of the website, including your IP address...

We show targeted ads. Our websites and mobile applications may from time to time provide links to or embed third party websites or content. Our advertising partners may collect information about your use of our websites and apps through cookies, web beacons, and similar technologies to display advertisements that are tailored to your interests on other websites and services...<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Haleon General Privacy Notice United States (updated December 22, 2022) (current version available at https://www.privacy.haleon.com/en-us/general/general-full-text/) (the "Privacy Notice"). Defendant has subsequently updated its Privacy Notice but, based on information and belief, this version was in effect at the time of Plaintiff's rejection of cookies on the Tums Website.

23. Defendant provided further information about the types of third-party cookies it used on the Websites as follows in its Privacy Preference Center:

**Performance Cookies.** These cookies allow us to count visits and traffic sources so we can measure and improve the performance of our site. They help us know which pages are the most and least popular and see how visitors move around the site...

**Targeting Cookies.** These cookies may be set through our site by our advertising partners. They may be used by those companies to build a profile of your interests and show you relevant adverts on other sites. They do not store directly personal information, but are based on uniquely identifying your browser and internet device...

**Social Media Cookies.** These cookies are set by a range of social media services that we have added to the site to enable you to share our content with your friends and networks. They are capable of tracking your browser across other sites and building up a profile of your interests. They may impact the content and messages you see on other websites you visit.

Tums Website Privacy Preference Center.

# B. <u>Defendant Falsely Informed Users That They Could Reject the Websites' Use of Cookies.</u>

24. When consumers in California visited any of the Websites, the Website immediately displayed to them a popup cookie consent banner. As shown in the screenshot below, the cookie consent banners stated, "We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience by remembering your preferences and repeat visits." The banners failed to disclose that the Websites used cookies for analytics and targeted advertising functions. The Websites' banners then purported to provide users the opportunity to "Reject All" cookies as shown, in the following screenshot from the Tums Website:

We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience by remembering your preferences and repeat visits. Cookies are enabled by default, however, you may visit your Cookie Settings to opt-out of cookie usage by category. Read our <a href="Privacy Policy">Privacy Policy</a>

Cookie Settings

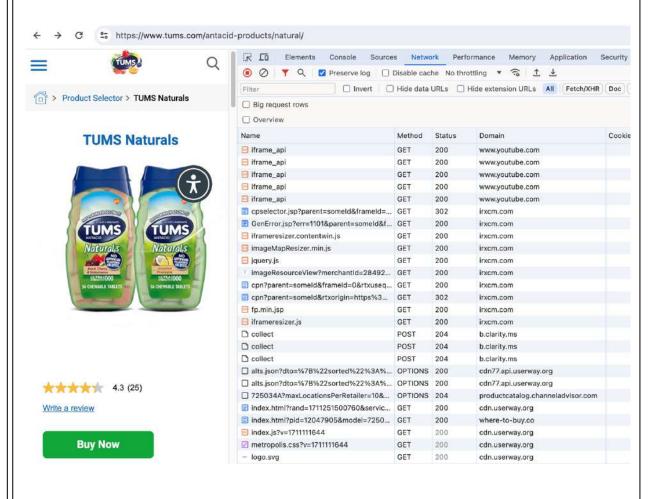
Reject All

Accept Cookies

- 25. The same or substantially similar cookie consent banner appeared on each of the Websites.
- 26. Website users who clicked or selected the "Reject All" cookies button, indicating their choice and/or agreement to decline or reject all cookies and tracking technologies in use on the Websites, could then continue to browse the Websites, and the popup cookie consent banners disappeared.
- 27. Defendant's popup cookie consent banners led Plaintiff, and all those similarly situated users of the Websites, to believe that they declined or rejected all cookies and tracking technologies, especially those that share personal information with third parties, such as performance, targeting, and social media cookies. The banners further reasonably led Plaintiff and other Website users to believe that Defendant would not allow third parties, through cookies, to access their Private Communications with the Websites, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data, upon clicking or selecting the "Reject All" cookies button. Defendant's representations, however, were false.
- 28. In truth, Defendant did not abide by its users' wishes. Even though Defendant received notice that certain users, through their selection of the "Reject All" cookies button did not consent to the placement or transmission of third-party cookies that would allow those parties to obtain their Private Communications with the Websites, Defendant nonetheless caused the Third Party tracking cookies to be placed on Website users' browsers and devices and/or transmitted to the Third Parties along with user data—even for those users who elected to reject all cookies.
- 29. In particular, when users clicked or selected the "Reject All" cookies button, Defendant nonetheless continued to cause the Third Parties' cookies to be placed on users' devices and/or transmitted to the Third Parties along with user data, enabling them to collect user data in real time that discloses Website visitors' Private Communications, including browsing

history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data. In other words, even when consumers like Plaintiff tried to protect their privacy by rejecting cookies, Defendant failed to prevent cookies from being transmitted to Third Parties, enabling them to track user behavior and communications.

30. Some aspects of the operations of the Third Party cookies on the Websites can be observed using specialized tools that log incoming and outgoing Website network transmissions. The following screenshots, obtained using one such tool, show examples of Third-Party cookies being transmitted from a Tums Website user's device and browser to Third Parties even after the user clicked the "Reject All" cookies button on the Tums Website's popup cookie consent banner.



- 31. The screenshot above shows the "Network" tab of Chrome Developer Tools, which contains a list of HTTP network traffic transmissions between the user's browser and various third party websites while the user visited and interacted with Defendant's Tums Website at www.tums.com. The screenshot depicts only network traffic occurring *after* the user rejected all cookies using the cookie banner. As shown above, despite the user's rejection of all cookies, the user's interactions with the Tums Website caused the user's browser to make a large number of GET and POST HTTP requests to third party web domains like www.youtube.com; irxcm.com; clarity.ms; and others. As further shown in the right-hand column of the screenshot, the user's browser sent cookies along with those HTTP requests to the third parties. The screenshot demonstrates that the Tums Website caused third-party cookie data and users' Private Communications to be transmitted to Third Parties, even after consumers declined or rejected all cookies and tracking technologies by clicking or selecting the "Reject All" cookies button. All of these network calls are made to the Third Parties without the user's knowledge, and despite the user's rejection of all cookies.
- 32. The other Websites similarly cause consumers' devices to transmit user data to third parties—even after consumers *reject cookies* by clicking the "Reject All" button—on those Websites.
- 33. Website users' Private Communications, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data, are surreptitiously obtained by the Third Parties via these cookies.
- 34. As users interact with the Websites, even after clicking or selecting the "Reject All" cookies button, thereby declining or rejecting the use of cookies and similar technologies that share personal information with third parties, such as performance, targeting, and social media cookies, more data regarding users' behavior and communications are sent to third parties, alongside the cookie data. The third-party cookies that Defendant wrongfully allows to be stored

on users' devices and browsers, and to be transmitted to the Third Parties, enable the Third Parties to track and collect data on users' behaviors and communications, including Private Communications, on the Websites. Because third-party cookies enable Third Parties to track users' behavior across the Internet and across time, user data can be correlated and combined with other data sets to compile comprehensive user profiles that reflect consumers' behavior, preferences, and demographics (including psychological trends, predispositions, attitudes, intelligence, abilities, and aptitudes). These Third Parties monetize user profiles for advertising, sales, and marketing purposes to generate revenue and target advertising to Internet users. Advertisers can gain deep understanding of users' behavioral traits and characteristics and target those users with advertisements tailored to their consumer profiles and audience segments.

35. The Third Party code that the Websites cause to be loaded and executed by the user's browser becomes a wiretap when it is executed because it enables the Third Parties—separate and distinct entities from the parties to the conversations—to use cookies to eavesdrop upon, record, extract data from, and analyze conversations to which they are not parties. When the Third Parties use their respective wiretaps on Website users' Private Communications, the wiretaps are not like tape recorders or "tools" used by one party to record the other. The Third Parties each have the capability to use the contents of conversations they collect through their respective wiretaps for their own purposes as described in more detail below.

# C. <u>The Private Communications Collected As a Result of Third Party Cookies</u> Transmitted When Visiting Defendant's Websites.

## 1. Google YouTube Cookies

36. Defendant causes third party cookies to be transmitted to and from Website users' browsers and devices, even after users reject all cookies (including advertising and analytics cookies) to and from the <a href="www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a> domain, and other Google domains. Defendant currently identifies cookies from the <a href="www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a> domain as "Advertising" cookies in the Tums Website Privacy Preference Center. This domain is associated with Google's YouTube, a video sharing and streaming platform which allows users to upload, watch, share, and engage

with video content. Google collects user information via cookies to assist it in performing data collection, behavioral analysis, user retargeting, and analytics.<sup>2</sup> Google serves targeted ads to web users across Google's ad network, which spans millions of websites, apps, and the YouTube platform. Google's cookies help it track whether users complete specific actions after interacting with an ad (e.g., clicking a link or making a purchase) and provide analytic metrics that advertisers use to measure ad campaign performance. Further, by identifying users who have shown interest in certain products or content, Google's cookies enable its advertising platform to enable advertisers to show relevant ads to those users when they visit other websites within Google's ad network.<sup>3</sup>

37. Google's cookies allow it to obtain and store at least the following user data: (i) browsing history, (ii) visit history, (iii) website interactions, (iv) user input data, (v) demographic information, (vi) interests and preferences, (vii) shopping behaviors, (viii) device information, (ix) referring URLs, (x) session information, (xi) user identifiers, and (xii) geolocation data.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See About the Google Tag (available at

https://business.safety.google/adscookies/).

https://support.google.com/searchads/answer/7550511?hl=en); How Floodlight Recognizes Users (available at https://support.google.com/searchads/answer/2903014?hl=en); How Google Ads tracks website conversions (available at https://support.google.com/google-

https://support.google.com/searchads/answer/7189623?hl=en); About dynamic remarketing for

ads/answer/7521212); Google Ads Help, Cookie: Definition (available at

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g. About cross-channel remarketing in Search Ads 360 (available at

<sup>2</sup> See Our advertising and measurement cookies (available at

ads/answer/6099158?hl=en&sjid=1196213575075458908-NC).

retail (available at https://support.google.com/google-

https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/2407785?hl=en); About demographic targeting in Google Ads (available at

https://support.google.com/searchads/answer/7298581?hl=en&sjid=1196213575075458908-NC&visit id=638670675669576522-2267083756&ref topic=7302618&rd=1); How Google

Analytics Works (https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/12159447); Set up events (available at https://developers.google.com/analytics/devguides/collection/ga4/events); and Recommended events (available at https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/9267735).

For example, the Google software code that Defendant causes to be stored on and

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executed by the Tums Website user's device causes the following types of cookies to be sent to Google's domain, at https://www.youtube.com:

Key	Value
Secure-3PSID	g.a000hwhMH9ivRAj5NtnWywCX4ZmM7NLM92A34 W5Xsh5o-aqSaHHWfW- ocfDvc3dTSyQXwDWy5AACgYKARASAQASFQHGX2 MiEuQaYZhJll4Yzim02AMsSRoVAUF8yKojhMzoMLiq MSvOrf8JC4Y30076
Secure-3PAPISID	uk950RhyqlXlyJvZ/Am3N0xXU-PfcrRzBK
LOGIN_INFO	AFmmF2swRAIgYzsmi_ZLsyr4u4WT5p3S3KWGRgY900rYQLgHjQel9XYCIB73U8WM0SgilHG_InFsyDPuaYwuw_LKGjpiUbaxZYiw:QUQ3MjNmeTE0a2h6UC1oMGhWRk5Bd1E3Zlplc0FnSUw0clJjSllhM080dVQyNFJ3UHMzRVBaOEZ2bktrbEZsMGJ1czBiYkJYLXVkNjFzRIFxV2VCZUQ5eDRZQmJ2ZEpoOHpOSVdIREFabi1rOUZDVEJBNEN0Qlc5Yk1KdEh5WUxXdHMxWWN6UE1PVW9kb3VOWlpObHZPTG1ESFBSLTJIVEt3
Secure-3PSIDTS	sidts-CjEB7F1E_ILrd4HNrN8- z3DXG2hna58enj7DCupgjHyaTrbWCort5o4ylc7MVe VucxvqEAA
YSC	IObTmrGA7mY
VISITOR_INFO1_LIVE	MIR80-Uj9w8
VISITOR_PRIVACY_METADATA	CgJVUxlEGgAgMg%3D%3D
Secure-3PSIDCC	AKEyXzXV8ui8rGyZkTefEhOSWGH8Mhkxryua9Nxsx AlhDuRleNlWurESewktbE0WNZjgDyL3L2o

- 39. At least the \_\_Secure-3PAPISID and \_\_Secure-3PSID cookies used on the Websites are utilized by Google to build a profile of Websites visitor interests to show relevant and personalized ads through retargeting.
- 40. In addition, Defendant causes the user's browser to send various first-party cookies to Google. For example, when the user browses the Tums Website—even after rejecting all cookie—Defendant causes the following cookies to be transmitted to Google:

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- 41. The "\_gid," "\_ga," and "\_ga..." cookies are associated with Google Analytics.<sup>5</sup> The "\_dc\_gtm" cookie is associated with Google Tag Manager.
- 42. Further, along with all of this data, the Google software code that Defendant causes to be stored on and executed by the user's device causes the user's "user-agent" information to be sent to Google:

user-agent Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh; Intel Mac OS X 10\_15\_7) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/123.0.0.0 Safari/537.36

- 43. The "user-agent" corresponds to the device and browser that the user has used to access the Tums Website. In this case, the user-agent value corresponds to Google's Chrome browser version 121, running on the Catalina version of macOS.<sup>6</sup>
  - 44. Finally, the data sent to Google contains the user's IP address.
- 45. Because Google's cookies operate across multiple sites (i.e., cross-site tracking), the cookie enables Google to track users as they navigate from one site to another, and to comprehensively observe and evaluate user behavior online. Google's advertising platform

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Google Resources: Our advertising and measurement cookies (available at https://business.safety.google/adscookies/).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> There are many tools on the web that are capable of parsing user-agent strings to determine what browser and operating system they pertain to. One such tool is located at https://explore.whatismybrowser.com/useragents/parse.

consumer's behavior, preferences, and demographics and audience segments based on shared traits (such as females, Millennials, etc.), and to perform targeted advertising and marketing analytics.

aggregates user data to create consumer profiles containing detailed information about a

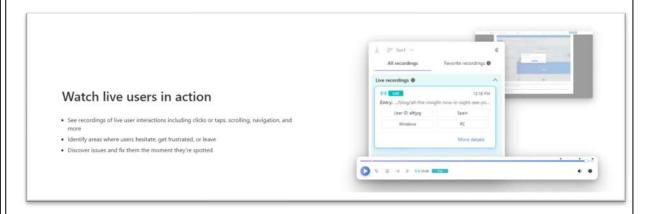
- 46. Thus, the Google cookies used on the Websites enable Google to track users' interactions with advertisements to help advertisers understand how users engage with ads across different websites. Further, the user data collected through the cookie enables the delivery of personalized ads based on user interests and behaviors. For instance, if a user frequently visits travel-related websites, Google will show her more travel-related advertisements. Further, the collected data is used to generate reports for advertisers, helping them assess the performance of their ad campaigns and make data-driven decisions (such as renaming their products). Further, Google's advertising platform enables advertisers to retarget marketing, which Google explains allows advertisers to "show previous visitors ads based on products or services they viewed on your website. With messages tailored to your audience, dynamic remarketing helps you build leads and sales by bringing previous visitors back to your website to complete what they started."
- 47. Further, in its "Shared Data Under Measurement Controller-Controller Data Protection Terms," Google states: "Google can access and analyze the Analytics data customers share with us to better understand online behavior and trends, and improve our products and services—for example, to improve Google search results, detect and remove invalid advertising traffic in Google Ads, and test algorithms and build models that power services like Google Analytics Intelligence that apply machine-learning to surface suggestions and insights for customers based on their analytics data and like Google Ads that applies broad models to improve ads personalization and relevance. These capabilities are critical to the value of the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Dynamic remarketing for web setup guide (available at https://support.google.com/google-ads/answer/6077124).

products we deliver to customers today." Thus, Google can have the capability to use the data it collects for understanding online behavior and trends, machine learning, and improving its own products and services.

### 2. Microsoft Clarity Cookies

- 48. Defendant also causes third party cookies to be transmitted to and from Website users' browsers and devices, even after users click or select the "Reject All" cookies button, to and from the **clarity.ms** domain. This domain is associated with Clarity, Microsoft's "cuttingedge behavioral analytics tool that helps you understand user interaction with your website or app". Clarity is a Microsoft Advertising tool, which "crucial for successful marketing." Clarity's tracking code" "uses a cookie to obtain user session data." 11
- 49. Clarity, however, allows Defendant to "watch live users in action" via "recordings of live user interactions" on the website, including a user's "clicks or taps, scrolling, navigation, and more." Indeed, Clarity boasts that it "tracks all visitor clicks and scrolls on mobile, desktop, and tablet[.]" These "session recordings" track each and every consumer's individual actions on the website. <sup>13</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Shared Data Under Measurement Controller-Controller Data Protection Terms (available at https://support.google.com/analytics/answer/9024351).

 $<sup>^9\</sup> https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/clarity/setup-and-installation/about-clarity.$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> https://about.ads.microsoft.com/en/blog/post/october-2021/introducing-microsoft-clarity-insights-for-microsoft-advertising.

<sup>11</sup> https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/clarity/setup-and-installation/cookie-consent.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://clarity.microsoft.com/session-recordings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> *Id*.

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50. Along with this data, the Microsoft software that Defendant's Tums Website causes to be executed by users' browsers causes the MUID cookie to be sent to Microsoft:



- 51. According to Microsoft's documentation, the "MUID" cookie "[i]dentifies unique web browsers visiting Microsoft sites [and is] used for advertising, site analytics, and other operational purposes."<sup>14</sup>
- 52. In addition, Defendant causes the user's browser to send various first-party cookies to Microsoft. For example, when the user browses the Tums Website—even after rejecting all cookies—Defendant causes the following cookies to be transmitted to Microsoft Clarity:



- 53. Microsoft's documentation states that the "\_clck" cookie "[p]ersists the Clarity User ID and preferences, unique to that site is attributed to the same user ID" and that the "\_clsk" cookie "[c]onnects multiple page views by a user into a single Clarity session recording." 15
- 54. Further, Clarity permits Defendant to aggregate individual users' session recordings into "heatmaps" for Defendant's financial gain. Heatmaps are "visualization tool[s]" aimed at "aggregat[ing] information about how users interact with the website." <sup>16</sup> This allows

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/clarity/setup-and-installation/cookie-list.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/clarity/heatmaps/heatmaps-overview.

1 Defendant to "See at a glance which areas on [web site owner's] page drive the most 2 engagement," a crucial element to increasing advertising revenue. <sup>17</sup> Clarity also permits Defendant to "track a specific subset of users," including tracking metrics like what browser 3 4 users visited from, what type of device, the date, and more. Clarity even permits the use of 5 specific "Clarity user ID[s]" which permits Clarity to track users across their devices, and identify when the same user visits multiple times to the website. 18 Businesses use Clarity to 6 "make data-driven decisions" to "improve overall conversion rates" of clicks, engagement, or 7 8 sales. 19 Microsoft notes in a Clarity case study that Clarity cookies permitted businesses to see a "substantial increase" in "purchases." 20 In one instance, "following just five days after 9 implementing Clarity, the [business] saw an uplift of 19% in conversion rate."<sup>21</sup> Businesses 10 11 consider Clarity a "must-have tool for any business serious about optimizing their website and

55. Microsoft collects data from Clarity,<sup>23</sup> which "Microsoft retains . . . for as long as necessary[.]"<sup>24</sup> Clarity cookies allow Microsoft to obtain and store at least the following user data: (i) user identifier; (ii) website interactions; (iii) interests and preferences; (iv) shopping behavior; (v) device information; (vi) demographic data; (vii) geolocation data; (viii) referring URL; and (ix) session information. <sup>25</sup>

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increasing online revenue."22

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> https://clarity.microsoft.com/heatmaps.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> https://clarity.microsoft.com/insights; https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/clarity/setup-and-installation/identify-api.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> https://clarity.microsoft.com/case-studies/ecommerce-

<sup>22 ||</sup> boost/#:~:text=Using%20Clarity&text=By%20analyzing%20user%20sessions%20and,and%20i mprove%20overall%20conversion%20rates.

 $<sup>^{20}</sup>$  Id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> *Id.*, emphasis in original.

<sup>22</sup> https://clarity.microsoft.com/case-studies/ecommerce-

boost/#:~:text=Using%20Clarity&text=By%20analyzing%20user%20sessions%20and,and%20improve%20overall%20conversion%20rates.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/privacy/privacystatement.

 $<sup>27 \</sup>mid |^{24} Id$ 

<sup>25</sup> https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/clarity/setup-and-installation/clarity-data.

### 3. RevTrax Cookies

- Defendant also causes third party cookies to be transmitted to and from Website users' browsers and devices, even after users click or select the "Reject All" cookies button, to and from the **irxcm.com** domain. This domain is associated with RevTrax, a digital service provided by Neptune Retail Solutions that allows website owners to offer digital coupons and offers to customers. The RevTrax Technology presents a Client's Web-based offer to a User using the RevTrax-owned website irxcm.com, and collects Usage Data and Tracking Data" which Neptune explains includes "a User's device type, operating system version, and Internet browser type and version" and "IP address" (Usage Data) and "information collected by the RevTrax Technology from a User who is presented with a Web-based offer" (Tracking Data) that includes data about how the user interacts with the offer and the user's email address or phone number (if provided). RevTrax cookies allow Neptune to obtain and store at least the following user data: (i) user identifier; (ii) website interactions; (iii) shopping behavior; (iv) device information; (v) geolocation data; and (vi) session information. <sup>28</sup>
- 57. The RevTrax Technology utilizes the user data to "[p]repare reports and analytics, and perform other services, as requested by [website owners]" and "identify[] usage trends, diagnosing technical problems, operating, maintaining, enhancing and improving the RevTrax Technology and RevTrax Service, and developing new products and services."<sup>29</sup>

### D. The Private Communications Collected are Valuable.

58. The Private Communications that the Third Parties track and collect by way of the cookies on the Websites is valuable to Defendant as well as the Third Parties. Defendant can use the data to create and analyze the performance of marketing campaigns, website design, product placement, and target specific users or groups of users for advertisements. For instance,

<sup>29</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> https://www.revtrax.com/privacy-policy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> *Id*.

 $<sup>^{28}\</sup> https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/clarity/setup-and-installation/clarity-data.$ 

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<sup>30</sup> See Paul M. Schwartz, *Property, Privacy and Personal Data*, 117 Harv. L. Rev. 2055, 2056–57 (2004).

if Defendant wanted to market certain of its products to consumers, Defendant could use the data collected by the Third Parties to monitor users who visit webpages related to specific products, then advertise similar products to those particular users when they visit other webpages. The third-party cookies also enable Defendant to target online advertisements to users when they visit *other* websites, even those completely unrelated to Defendant and its products.

- 59. Data about users' browsing history enables Defendant to spot patterns in users' behavior on the Websites and their interests in, among other things, Defendant's products. On a broader scale, it enables Defendant to gain an understanding of trends happening across its brands and across the consumer electronics market. All of this helps Defendant further monetize its Websites and maximize revenue by collecting and analyzing user data.
- 60. The value of the Private Communications tracked and collected by the Third Parties using cookies on the Websites can be quantified. Legal scholars observe that "[p]ersonal information is an important currency in the new millennium." Indeed, "[t]he monetary value of personal data is large and still growing, and corporate America is moving quickly to profit from the trend." *Id.* "Companies view this information as a corporate asset and have invested heavily in software that facilitates the collection of consumer information." *Id.*
- 61. Numerous empirical studies quantify the appropriate value measure for personal data. Generally, the value of personal data is measured as either the consumer's willingness to accept compensation to sell her data or the consumer's willingness to pay to protect her information.
- 62. Through its false representations and aiding, agreeing with, employing, permitting, or otherwise enabling the Third Parties to track users' Private Communications on the Website using third-party cookies, Defendant is unjustly enriching itself at the cost of consumer privacy and choice, when the consumer could otherwise have the ability to choose if and how they would monetize their data.

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### **PLAINTIFF'S EXPERIENCES**

- 63. Plaintiff visited the Tums Website to browse information about the Tums products on or around August 2023. Plaintiff visited the Emergenc Website to browse information about the Emergenc products on or around January 2024. Plaintiff visited the Centrum Website to browse information about the Centrum products on or around November 2023. Plaintiff visited the Sensodyne Website to browse information about the Sensodyne products on or around June 2024.
- 64. When Plaintiff visited the Websites, the Websites immediately presented him with Defendant's popup cookie consent banner, which provided the option to select the "Reject All" cookies button. Plaintiff viewed Defendant's representation on the popup cookie consent banner that, "We use cookies on our website to give you the most relevant experience by remembering your preferences and repeat visits." Plaintiff also viewed Defendant's additional representation that users could "Reject All" cookies.
- 65. Consistent with his typical practice in rejecting or otherwise declining the placement or use of cookies and tracking technologies, Plaintiff selected and clicked the "Reject All" cookies button. Plaintiff believed that selecting the "Reject All" cookies button on the popup cookie consent banner found on the Websites would allow him to opt out of, decline, and/or reject all cookies and other tracking technologies (inclusive of those cookies that cause the disclosure of user data to third-party advertising networks, analytics services, and/or social media companies for the purposes of providing personalized content, advertising, and analytics services).
- 66. In selecting the "Reject All" cookies button Plaintiff gave Defendant notice that he did not consent to the use or placement of cookies and tracking technologies while browsing the Websites. In reliance on these representations and promises, only then did Plaintiff continue browsing the Websites.
- 67. Even before the popup cookie consent banner appeared on the screen, Defendant nonetheless caused cookies and tracking technologies, including those used for performance,

targeting, and social media functions, to be placed on Plaintiff's device and/or transmitted to the Third Parties along with user data, without Plaintiff's knowledge. Accordingly, the popup cookie consent banner's representation to Plaintiff that he could reject the use and/or placement of all cookies and tracking technologies while he browsed the Websites was false. Contrary to what Defendant made Plaintiff believe, he did not have a choice about whether third-party cookies would be placed on his device and/or transmitted to the Third Parties along with his user data; rather, Defendant had already caused that to happen.

- 68. Then, as Plaintiff continued to browse the Websites in reliance on the promises Defendant made in the cookie consent banner, and despite Plaintiff's clear rejection of the use and/or placement of such cookies and tracking technologies, Defendant nonetheless continued to cause the placement and/or transmission of cookies along with user data, including those involved in providing performance, targeting, and social media services, from the Third Parties on his device. In doing so, Defendant permitted the Third Parties to track and collect Plaintiff's Private Communications as Plaintiff browsed the Websites.
- 69. Defendant's representations that consumers could "Reject All" cookies while Plaintiff and users browsed the Websites were untrue. Had Plaintiff known this fact, he would not have used the Websites. Moreover, Plaintiff reviewed the popup cookie consent banner prior to using the Websites. Had Defendant disclosed that it would continue to cause cookies and tracking technologies to be stored on consumers' devices even after they choose to reject all cookies, Plaintiff would have noticed it and would not have used the Websites or, at a minimum, he would have interacted with the Websites differently.
- 70. Plaintiff continues to desire to browse content featured on the Websites. Plaintiff would like to browse websites that do not misrepresent that users can reject all cookies and tracking technologies. If the Websites were programmed to honor users' requests to reject cookies and tracking technologies, Plaintiff would likely browse the Websites again in the future, but will not do so until then. Plaintiff regularly visits websites that feature content similar to that of the Websites. Because Plaintiff does not know how the Websites are programmed, which can

1 change over time, and because he does not have the technical knowledge necessary to test 2 whether the Websites honors users' requests to reject all cookies and tracking technologies, 3 Plaintiff will be unable to rely on Defendant's representations when browsing the Websites in 4 the future absent an injunction that prohibits Defendant from making misrepresentations on the 5 Websites. The only way to determine what network traffic is sent to third parties when visiting 6 a website is to use a specialized tool such as Chrome Developer Tools. As the name suggests, 7 such tools are designed for use by "developers" (i.e., software developers), whose specialized 8 training enables them to analyze the data underlying the HTTP traffic to determine what data, if 9 any, is being sent to whom. Plaintiff is not a software developer and has not received training

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**TOLLING** 

with respect to HTTP network calls.

71. All applicable statutes of limitations have been tolled by operation of the delayed discovery doctrine, which delays accrual until Plaintiff has, or should have, inquiry notice of his causes of action. Despite exercising reasonable diligence, Plaintiff was unaware of Defendant's fraudulent and unlawful conduct alleged herein due to Defendant's active concealment of material facts, which prevented Plaintiff from discovering his claims within the statute of limitations. As alleged above, Plaintiff does not have the expertise to test whether the Websites honored users' requests to opt out of cookies and tracking technologies. Plaintiff was unaware that even though he rejected cookies on the Tums Website, Defendant caused cookies, including the Third Parties' cookies, to be sent to his browsers, stored on his devices, and transmitted to the Third Parties along with his private user data until on or around February 2024 when he learned of Defendant's privacy violations from counsel.

72. On or around March 25, 2024, Plaintiff notified Defendant of his claims and allegations asserted herein. On February 7, 2025, the parties entered into a tolling agreement that "Any and all statute of limitations periods and statute of repose periods related to Claimant's alleged claims for damages and other relief against Haleon shall be tolled during the time period commencing on February 7, 2025, and continuing until March 10, 2025."

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claims since the claims asserted herein are substantially similar to those raised in Plaintiff's March 25, 2024 letter.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

Defendant has not been prejudiced in its ability to gather evidence for Plaintiff's

74. Plaintiff brings this Class Action Complaint on behalf of himself and a proposed class of similarly situated persons, pursuant to Rules 23(b)(2) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff seeks to represent the following group of similarly situated persons, defined as follows:

<u>Class</u>: All persons who browsed any of the Websites in the State of California after clicking the "Reject All" cookies button in the Website's popup cookies consent banner within the four years preceding the filing of this Complaint (the "Class Period").

- 75. This action has been brought and may properly be maintained as a class action against Defendant because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the proposed class is easily ascertainable.
- 76. **Numerosity:** Plaintiff does not know the exact size of the Class, but he estimates that it is composed of more than 100 persons. The persons in the Class are so numerous that the joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the disposition of their claims in a class action rather than in individual actions will benefit the parties and the courts.
- 77. Common Questions Predominate: This action involves common questions of law and fact to the Class because each class member's claim derives from the same unlawful conduct that led them to believe that Defendant would not cause third-party cookies to be placed on their browsers and devices and/or transmitted to third parties along with user data, after Class members chose to reject all cookies and tracking technologies on the Websites, nor would Defendant permit third parties to track and collect Class members' Private Communications as Class members browsed the Websites.

- 78. The common questions of law and fact predominate over individual questions, as proof of a common or single set of facts will establish the right of each member of the Class to recover. The questions of law and fact common to the Class are:
  - a. Whether Defendant's actions violate California laws invoked herein; and
- b. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to damages, restitution, injunctive and other equitable relief, reasonable attorneys' fees, prejudgment interest and costs of this suit.
- 79. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the Class because, among other things, Plaintiff, like the other Class members, visited the Websites, rejected all cookies, and had his confidential Private Communications intercepted by the Third Parties.
- 80. Adequacy of Representation: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of all Class members because it is in his best interests to prosecute the claims alleged herein to obtain full compensation due to him for the unfair and illegal conduct of which he complains. Plaintiff also has no interests in conflict with, or antagonistic to, the interests of Class members. Plaintiff has retained highly competent and experienced class action attorneys to represent his interests and those of the Class. By prevailing on his claims, Plaintiff will establish Defendant's liability to all Class members. Plaintiff and his counsel have the necessary financial resources to adequately and vigorously litigate this class action, and Plaintiff and counsel are aware of their fiduciary responsibilities to the Class members and are determined to diligently discharge those duties by vigorously seeking the maximum possible recovery for Class members.
- 81. **Superiority:** There is no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy other than by maintenance of this class action. The prosecution of individual remedies by members of the Class will tend to establish inconsistent standards of conduct for Defendant and result in the impairment of Class members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to which they were not parties. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly

situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by each individual member of the Class may be relatively small, the expenses and burden of individual litigation would make it difficult or impossible for individual members of the class to redress the wrongs done to them, while an important public interest will be served by addressing the matter as a class action. Plaintiff is unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

### First Cause of Action: Invasion of Privacy

- 82. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the paragraphs of this Complaint as if set forth herein.
- 83. To plead an invasion of privacy claim, Plaintiff must show an invasion of (i) a legally protected privacy interest; (ii) where Plaintiff had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the circumstances; and (iii) conduct by Defendant constituting a serious invasion of privacy.
- 84. Defendant has intruded upon the following legally protected privacy interests of Plaintiff and Class members: (i) the California Invasion of Privacy Act, as alleged herein; (ii) the California Constitution, which guarantees Californians the right to privacy; (iii) the California Wiretap Acts as alleged herein; (iv) Cal. Penal Code § 484(a), which prohibits the knowing theft or defrauding of property "by any false or fraudulent representation or pretense;" and (v) Plaintiff's and Class members' Fourth Amendment right to privacy.
- 85. Plaintiff and Class members had a reasonable expectation of privacy under the circumstances, as Defendant affirmatively promised users they could "Reject All" cookies and tracking technologies before proceeding to browse the Websites. Plaintiff and other Class members directed their electronic devices to access the Websites and, when presented with the popup cookies consent banners on the Websites, Plaintiff and Class members rejected all cookies and reasonably expected that his and their rejection of all cookies and tracking technologies

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would be honored. That is, he and they reasonably believed that Defendant would not permit the Third Parties to store and send cookies and/or use other such tracking technologies on their devices while they browsed the Websites. Plaintiff and Class members also reasonably expected that, if they rejected all cookies and/or tracking technologies, Defendant would not permit the Third Parties to track and collect Plaintiff's and Class members' Private Communications, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data, on the Websites.

- 86. Such information is "personal information" under California law, which defines personal information as including "Internet or other electronic network activity information," such as "browsing history, search history, and information regarding a consumer's interaction with an internet website, application, or advertisement." Cal. Civ. Code § 1798.140.
- 87. Defendant, in violation of Plaintiff's and other Class members' reasonable expectation of privacy, and without their consent, permits the Third Parties to use cookies and other tracking technologies to collect, track, and compile users' Private Communications, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data. The data that Defendant allowed third parties to collect enables the Third Parties to, *inter alia*, create consumer profiles containing detailed information about a consumer's behavior, preferences, and demographics; create audience segments based on shared traits (such as millennials, tech enthusiasts, etc.); and perform targeted advertising and marketing analytics. Further, the Third Parties share user data and/or the user profiles to unknown parties to further their financial gain. The consumer profiles are and can be used to further invade Plaintiff's and users' privacy, by allowing third parties to learn intimate details of their lives, and target them for advertising and other purposes, as described herein, thereby harming them through the abrogation of their autonomy and their ability to control dissemination and use of information about them.

- 88. Defendant's actions constituted a serious invasion of privacy in that it invaded a zone of privacy protected by the Fourth Amendment (i.e., one's personal communications), and violated criminal laws on wiretapping and invasion of privacy. These acts constitute an egregious breach of social norms that is highly offensive.
- 89. Defendant's intrusion into Plaintiff's privacy was also highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 90. Defendant lacked a legitimate business interest in causing the placement and/or transmission of third-party cookies along with user data that allowed the Third Parties to track, intercept, receive, and collect Private Communications, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data, without their consent.
- 91. Plaintiff and Class members have been damaged by Defendant's invasion of their privacy and are entitled to just compensation, including monetary damages.
- 92. Plaintiff and Class members seeks appropriate relief for that injury, including but not limited to, damages that will compensate them for the harm to their privacy interests as well as disgorgement of profits made by Defendant as a result of its intrusions upon Plaintiff's and Class members' privacy.
- 93. Plaintiff and Class members seek punitive damages because Defendant's actions—which were malicious, oppressive, willful—were calculated to injure Plaintiff and Class members and made in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's and Class members' rights and Plaintiff's and Class members' rejection of the Website's use of all cookies. Punitive damages are warranted to deter Defendant from engaging in future misconduct.

## **Second Cause of Action: Intrusion Upon Seclusion**

- 94. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged herein.
- 95. To assert a claim for intrusion upon seclusion, Plaintiff must plead (i) that Defendant intentionally intruded into a place, conversation, or matter as to which Plaintiff had a

reasonable expectation of privacy; and (ii) that the intrusion was highly offensive to a reasonable person.

- 96. By permitting third-party cookies to be stored on consumers' devices, which enabled the Third Parties to track and collect Plaintiff's and Class members' Private Communications, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data, in violation of Defendant's representations otherwise in the Websites' popup cookie consent banners, Defendant intentionally intruded upon the solitude or seclusion of Website users. Defendant effectively placed the Third Parties in the middle of communications to which they were not invited, welcomed, or authorized.
- 97. The Third Parties' tracking and collecting of Plaintiff's and Class member's Private Communications on the Websites using third-party cookies that Defendant caused to be stored on users' devices—and to be transmitted to Third Parties—was not authorized by Plaintiff and Class members, and, in fact, those Website users specifically chose to "Reject All" cookies.
- 98. Plaintiff and the Class members had an objectively reasonable expectation of privacy surrounding his and their Private Communications on the Websites based on Defendant's promise that users could "Reject All" cookies, as well as state criminal and civil laws designed to protect individual privacy.
- 99. Defendant's intentional intrusion into Plaintiff's and other Website users' Private Communications would be highly offensive to a reasonable person given that Defendant represented that Website users could "Reject All" cookies when, in fact, Defendant caused such third-party cookies to be stored on consumers' devices and browsers, and to be transmitted to third parties, even when consumers rejected all such cookies. Indeed, Plaintiff and Class members reasonably expected, based on Defendant's false representations, that when he and they rejected all cookies and tracking technologies, Defendant would not cause such third-party cookies to be stored on his and their devices or permit the Third Parties to obtain their Private

Communications on the Websites, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data.

- 100. Defendant's conduct was intentional and intruded on Plaintiff's and users' Private Communications on the Websites.
- 101. Plaintiff and Class members have been damaged by Defendant's invasion of their privacy and are entitled to just compensation, including monetary damages.
- 102. Plaintiff and Class members seeks appropriate relief for that injury, including but not limited to, damages that will compensate them for the harm to their privacy interests as well as disgorgement of profits made by Defendant as a result of its intrusions upon Plaintiff's and Class members' privacy.
- 103. Plaintiff and Class members seek punitive damages because Defendant's actions—which were malicious, oppressive, willful—were calculated to injure Plaintiff and Class members and made in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's and Class members' rights and Plaintiff's and Class members' rejection of the Website's use of cookies. Punitive damages are warranted to deter Defendant from engaging in future misconduct.

# Third Cause of Action: Wiretapping in Violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act (California Penal Code § 631)

- 104. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged herein.
- 105. California Penal Code § 631(a) provides, in pertinent part:

"Any person who, by means of any machine, instrument, or contrivance, or in any other manner... willfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication, or in any unauthorized manner, reads, or attempts to read, or to learn the contents or meaning of any message, report, or communication while the same is in transit or passing over any wire, line, or cable, or is being sent from, or received at any place within this state; or who uses, or attempts to use, in any manner, or for any purpose, or to communicate in any way, any information so obtained, or who aids, agrees with, employs, or conspires with any person or persons to unlawfully do, or permit, or cause to be done any of the acts or things mentioned above in this section, is punishable by a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars...."

106. The Califor	nia Supreme Court has repeatedly stated an "express objective" of
CIPA is to "protect a perso	n placing or receiving a call from a situation where the person on the
other end of the line permi	its an outsider to tap his telephone or listen in on the call." Ribas v.
Clark, 38 Cal. 3d 355, 364	(1985) (emphasis added).

107. Further, as the California Supreme Court has held, in explaining the legislative purpose behind CIPA:

While one who imparts private information risks the betrayal of his confidence by the other party, a substantial distinction has been recognized between the secondhand repetition of the contents of a conversation and its simultaneous dissemination to an unannounced second auditor, whether that auditor be a person or mechanical device.

As one commentator has noted, such secret monitoring denies the speaker an important aspect of privacy of communication—the right to control the nature and extent of the firsthand dissemination of his statements.

Ribas, 38 Cal. 3d at 360-61 (emphasis supplied; internal citations omitted).

- 108. CIPA § 631(a) imposes liability for "distinct and mutually independent patterns of conduct." *Tavernetti v. Superior Ct.*, 22 Cal. 3d 187, 192-93 (1978). Thus, to establish liability under § 631(a), Plaintiff need only establish that Defendant, "by means of any machine, instrument, contrivance, or in any other manner," did *any* of the following:
  - [i] Intentionally taps, or makes any unauthorized connection, whether physically, electrically, acoustically, inductively or otherwise, with any telegraph or telephone wire, line, cable, or instrument, including the wire, line, cable, or instrument of any internal telephonic communication system;
  - [ii] Willfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication, or in any unauthorized manner, reads or attempts to read or learn the contents or meaning of any message, report, or communication while the same is in transit or passing over any wire, line or cable or is being sent from or received at any place within this state;
  - [iii] Uses, or attempts to use, in any manner, or for any purpose, or to communicate in any way, any information so obtained

Cal. Penal Code § 631(a).

109. CIPA § 631(a) also penalizes those who [iv] "aid[], agree[] with, employ[], or conspire[] with any person" who conducts the aforementioned wiretapping, or those who "permit" the wiretapping.

110.

111. Section 631(a) is not limited to phone lines, but also applies to "new

Defendant is a "person" within the meaning of California Penal Code § 631.

- technologies" such as computers, the Internet, and email. *See Matera v. Google Inc.*, 2016 WL 8200619, at \*21 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 12, 2016) (CIPA applies to "new technologies" and must be construed broadly to effectuate its remedial purpose of protecting privacy); *see also Bradley v. Google, Inc.*, 2006 WL 3798134, at \*5–6 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 22, 2006) (CIPA governs "electronic communications"); *Javier v. Assurance IQ, LLC*, 2022 WL 1744107, at \*1 (9th Cir. May 31, 2022) ("Though written in terms of wiretapping, Section 631(a) applies to Internet communications.").
- 112. The Third Parties' cookies—as well as the software code of the Third Parties responsible for placing the cookies and transmitting data from user devices to the Third Parties—constitute "machine[s], instrument[s], or contrivance[s]" under the CIPA (and, even if they do not, Defendant's deliberate and purposeful scheme that facilitated the interceptions falls under the broad statutory catch-all category of "any other manner").
- 113. Each of the Third Parties is a "separate legal entity that offers [a] 'software-as-a-service' and not merely a passive device." *Saleh v. Nike, Inc.*, 562 F. Supp. 3d 503, 520 (C.D. Cal. 2021). Further, the Third Parties had the capability to use the wiretapped information for their own purposes and, as alleged above, they did in fact use the wiretapped information for their own business purposes.
- 114. Under § 631(a), Defendant must show it had the consent of all parties to a communication.
- 115. At all relevant times, the Websites caused Plaintiff and Class members' browsers to store the Third Parties' cookies and to transmit those cookies alongside Private Communications—including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data—to the Third Parties without Plaintiff's and Class members' consent. By configuring the Websites

in this manner, Defendant willfully aided, agreed with, employed, permitted, or otherwise enabled the Third Parties to wiretap Plaintiff and Class members using the Third Parties' cookies and to accomplish the wrongful conduct alleged herein.

- 116. At all relevant times, by their cookies and corresponding software code, the Third Parties willfully and without the consent of all parties to the communication, or in any unauthorized manner, read, attempted to read, and/or learned the contents or meaning of electronic communications of Plaintiff and Class members, on the one hand, and Defendant, on the other, while the electronic communications were in transit or were being sent from or received at any place within California.
- 117. The Private Communications of Plaintiff and Class members, on the one hand, and Defendant, on the other, that the Third Parties automatically intercepted directly communicates the Website user's affirmative decisions, actions, choices, preferences, and activities, which constitute the "contents" of electronic communications, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data.
- 118. At all relevant times, the Third Parties used or attempted to use the Private Communications automatically intercepted by their cookie tracking technologies for their own purposes.
- 119. Plaintiff and Class members did not provide their prior consent to the Third Parties' intentional access, interception, reading, learning, recording, collection, and usage of Plaintiff's and Class members' electronic communications. Nor did Plaintiff and Class members provide their prior consent to Defendant aiding, agreeing with, employing, permitting, or otherwise enabling the Third Parties' conduct. On the contrary, Plaintiff and Class members expressly declined to allow Third Parties' cookies and tracking technologies to access, intercept, read, learn, record, collect, and use Plaintiff's and Class members' electronic communications by choosing "Reject All" cookies in the Websites' cookie consent banners.

- 120. The wiretapping of Plaintiff and Class members occurred in California, where Plaintiff and Class members accessed the Websites and where the Third Parties—as enabled by Defendant—routed Plaintiff's and Class members' electronic communications to Third Parties' servers. Among other things, the cookies, as well as the software code responsible for placing the cookies and transmitting them and other Private Communications to the Third Parties, resided on Plaintiff's California-located device. In particular, the user's California-based device, after downloading the software code from the Third Parties' servers, (i) stored the code onto the user's disk; (ii) converted the code into machine-executable format; and (iii) executed the code, causing the transmission of data (including cookie data) to and from the Third Parties.
- 121. Plaintiff and Class members have suffered loss by reason of these violations, including, but not limited to, (i) violation of his and their right to privacy; (ii) loss of value in [his] and their Private Communications; (iii) damage to and loss of Plaintiff's and Class members' property right to control the dissemination and use of their Private Communications; and (iv) loss of their Private Communications to the Third Parties with no consent.
- 122. Pursuant to California Penal Code § 637.2, Plaintiff and Class members have been injured by the violations of California Penal Code § 631, and each seeks statutory damages of the greater of \$5,000, or three times the amount of actual damages, for each of Defendant's violations of CIPA § 631(a), as well as injunctive relief.
- 123. Unless enjoined, Defendant will continue to commit the illegal acts alleged herein including, but not limited to, permitting third parties to access, intercept, read, learn, record, collect, and use Plaintiff's and Class members' electronic Private Communications with Defendant. Plaintiff, Class members, and the general public continue to be at risk because Plaintiff, Class members, and the general public frequently use the internet to search for information and content related to consumer health care products. Plaintiff, Class members, and the general public continue to desire to use the internet for that purpose. Plaintiff, Class members, and the general public have no practical way to know if his and their request to reject all cookies and tracking technologies will be honored and/or whether Defendant will permit third parties to

access, intercept, read, learn, record, collect, and use Plaintiff's and Class members' electronic Private Communications with Defendant. Further, Defendant has already permitted the Third Parties to access, intercept, read, learn, record, collect, and use Plaintiff's and Class members' electronic Private Communications with Defendant and will continue to do so unless and until enjoined.

# Fourth Cause of Action: Use of a Pen Register in Violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act (California Penal Code § 638.51)

- 124. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged herein.
- 125. The California Invasion of Privacy Act, codified at Cal. Penal Code §§ 630 to 638, includes the following statement of purpose:

The Legislature hereby declares that advances in science and technology have led to the development of new devices and techniques for the purpose of eavesdropping upon private communications and that the invasion of privacy resulting from the continual and increasing use of such devices and techniques has created a serious threat to the free exercise of personal liberties and cannot be tolerated in a free and civilized society.

- 126. California Penal Code Section 638.51(a) proscribes any "person" from "install[ing] or us[ing] a pen register or a trap and trace device without first obtaining a court order."
- 127. A "pen register" is a "a device or process that records or decodes dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information transmitted by an instrument or facility from which a wire or electronic communication is transmitted, but not the contents of a communication." Cal. Penal Code § 638.50(b).
- 128. The Third Parties' cookies and the corresponding software code installed by Defendant on its Websites are each "pen registers" because they are "device[s] or process[es]" that "capture[d]" the "routing, addressing, or signaling information"—including, the IP address and user-agent information—from the electronic communications transmitted by Plaintiff's and the Class's computers or devices. Cal. Penal Code § 638.50(b).
- 129. At all relevant times, Defendant caused the Third Parties' cookies and the corresponding software code—which are pen registers—to be placed on Plaintiff's and Class

members' browsers and devices, and/or to be used to transmit Plaintiff's and Class members' IP address and user-agent information. *See Greenley v. Kochava*, 2023 WL 4833466, at \*15-16 (S.D. Cal. July 27, 2023); *Shah v. Fandom, Inc.*, 2024 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 193032, at \*5-11 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 21, 2024).

- 130. Some of the information collected by the Third Parties' cookies and the corresponding software, including IP addresses and user-agent information, does not constitute the content of Plaintiff's and the Class's electronic communications with the Websites. *In re Zynga Privacy Litig.*, 750 F.3d 1098, 1008 (9th Cir. 2014). ("IP addresses constitute addressing information and do not necessarily reveal any more about the underlying contents of communication...") (cleaned up).
- 131. Plaintiff and Class members did not provide their prior consent to Defendant's use of third-party cookies and the corresponding software. On the contrary, Plaintiff and the Class members informed Defendant that they did not consent to the Websites' use of third-party cookies by clicking the "Reject All" cookies button in the cookie consent banners.
- 132. Defendant did not obtain a court order to install or use the third-party cookies and corresponding software to track and collect Plaintiff's and Class member's IP addresses and user-agent information.
- 133. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and Class members suffered losses and were damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 134. Pursuant to Penal Code § 637.2(a)(1), Plaintiff and Class members are also entitled to statutory damages of \$5,000 for each of Defendant's violations of § 638.51(a).

# Fifth Cause of Action: Common Law Fraud, Deceit and/or Misrepresentation

- 135. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged herein.
- 136. Defendant fraudulently and deceptively informed Plaintiff and Class members that he and they could "Reject All" cookies.
- 137. However, despite Defendant's representations otherwise, Defendant caused thirdparty cookies and software code to be stored on consumers' devices, and to be transmitted to the

Third Parties alongside Private Communications, even after users clicked the "Reject All" cookies button in the Websites' popup cookie consent banners. These cookies and corresponding software code allowed the Third Parties to access, intercept, read, learn, record, collect, and use Plaintiff's and Class members' Private Communications, even when consumers had previously chosen to "Reject All" cookies.

- 138. These misrepresentations and omissions were known exclusively to, and actively concealed by Defendant, not reasonably known to Plaintiff and Class members, and material at the time they were made. Defendant knew, or should have known, how the Websites functioned, including the Third Party's resources it installed on the Websites and the third-party cookies in use on the Websites, through testing the Websites, evaluating their performance metrics by means of its accounts with the Third Parties, or otherwise, and knew, or should have known, that the Websites' programming allowed the third-party cookies to be placed on users'—including Plaintiff's—browsers and devices and/or transmitted to the Third Parties along with users' Private Communications even after users attempted to "Reject All" cookies, which Defendant promised its users they could do. Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions concerned material facts that were essential to the analysis undertaken by Plaintiff and Class members as to whether to use the Websites. In misleading Plaintiff and Class members and not so informing him and them, Defendant breached its duty to Plaintiff and Class members. Defendant also gained financially from, and as a result of, its breach.
- 139. Plaintiff and Class members relied to their detriment on Defendant's misrepresentations and fraudulent omissions.
- 140. Plaintiff and Class members have suffered an injury-in-fact, including the loss of money and/or property, as a result of Defendant's unfair, deceptive, and/or unlawful practices, including the unauthorized interception of his and their Private Communications, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data, which have value as demonstrated by the

use and sale of consumers' browsing activity, as alleged above. Plaintiff and Class members have also suffered harm in the form of diminution of the value of his and their private and personally identifiable information and communications.

- 141. Defendant's actions caused damage to and loss of Plaintiff's and Class members' property right to control the dissemination and use of their personal information and communications.
- 142. Defendant's representation that consumers could reject all cookies if they clicked the "Reject All" cookies button was untrue. Again, had Plaintiff and Class members known these facts, they would not have used the Websites. Moreover, Plaintiff and Class members reviewed the Websites' popup cookie consent banners and Defendant's Privacy Notice prior to their interactions with the Websites. Had Defendant disclosed that it caused third-party cookies to be stored on Website visitors' devices that share personal information with third parties, such as performance, targeting, and social media cookies, even after they choose to "Reject All" cookies, Plaintiff and Class members would have noticed it and would not have interacted with the Websites.
- 143. By and through such fraud, deceit, misrepresentations and/or omissions, Defendant intended to induce Plaintiff and Class members to alter their positions to their detriment. Specifically, Defendant fraudulently and deceptively induced Plaintiff and Class members to, without limitation, use the Websites under the mistaken belief that Defendant would not permit third parties to obtain users' Private Communications when consumers chose to reject all cookies. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class provided more personal data than they would have otherwise.
- 144. Plaintiff and Class members justifiably and reasonably relied on Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions, and, accordingly, were damaged by Defendant's conduct.
- 145. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's misrepresentations and/or omissions, Plaintiff and Class members have suffered damages, as alleged above, and are entitled to just compensation, including monetary damages.

146. Plaintiff and Class members seek punitive damages because Defendant's actions—which were malicious, oppressive, willful—were calculated to injure Plaintiff and Class members and made in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's and Class members' rights and Plaintiff's and Class members' rejection of the Websites' use of cookies. Punitive damages are warranted to deter Defendant from engaging in future misconduct.

## **Sixth Cause of Action:** Unjust Enrichment

- 147. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged herein.
- 148. Defendant created and implemented a scheme to increase its own profits through a pervasive pattern of false statements and fraudulent omissions.
- 149. Defendant was unjustly enriched as a result of its wrongful conduct, including through its misrepresentation that users could "Reject All" cookies and by permitting the Third Parties to store and transmit cookies on Plaintiff's and Class members' devices and browsers, which permitted the Third Parties to track and collect users' Private Communications, including their browsing history, visit history, website interactions, user input data, demographic information, interests and preferences, shopping behaviors, device information, referring URLs, session information, user identifiers, and/or geolocation data, even after Class members rejected such cookies.
- 150. Plaintiff and Class members' Private Communications have conferred an economic benefit on Defendant.
- 151. Defendant has been unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiff and Class members, and Defendant has unjustly retained the benefits of its unlawful and wrongful conduct.
- 152. Defendant appreciated, recognized, and chose to accept the monetary benefits that Plaintiff and Class members conferred onto Defendant at his and their detriment. These benefits were the expected result of Defendant acting in its pecuniary interest at the expense of Plaintiff and Class members.
- 153. It would be unjust for Defendant to retain the value of Plaintiff's and Class members' property and any profits earned thereon.

- 154. There is no justification for Defendant's enrichment. It would be inequitable, unconscionable, and unjust for Defendant to be permitted to retain these benefits because the benefits were procured as a result of its wrongful conduct.
- 155. Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to restitution of the benefits Defendant unjustly retained and/or any amounts necessary to return Plaintiff and Class members to the position he and they occupied prior to having his and their Private Communications tracked and collected by the Third Parties.
- 156. Plaintiff pleads this claim separately, as well as in the alternative, to his other claims, as without such claims Plaintiff would have no adequate legal remedy.

### **Seventh Cause of Action: Trespass to Chattels**

- 157. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged herein.
- 158. Defendant, intentionally and without consent or other legal justification, caused cookies to be stored on Plaintiff's and Class members' browsers and devices, which enabled the Third Parties and Defendant to track and collect Plaintiff's and Class members' Private Communications and use the data collected for their own advantage, as described above.
- 159. Defendant was unjustly enriched as a result of its wrongful conduct, including through its misrepresentation that users could reject all cookies and tracking technologies, and through their failure to disclose that Defendant causes third-party cookies to be stored on consumers' devices and browsers, which cause the Third Parties and Defendant to track and collect Plaintiff's and Class members' Private Communications even after consumers chose to reject cookies.
- 160. Defendant intentionally caused third party software code to be stored onto Plaintiff's and Class members' devices, knowing that the code would be executed by those devices. The software code then placed and/or transmitted cookies along with Plaintiff's and Class members' Private Communications to the Third Parties. These intentional acts interfered with Plaintiff's and Class members' use of the following personal property owned, leased, or

controlled by Plaintiff and other users: (a) his and their computers and other electronic devices; and (b) his and their personally identifiable information.

- 161. Defendant's trespass of Plaintiff's and other users' computing devices resulted in harm to Plaintiff and other users and caused Plaintiff and other users the following damages:
  - Nominal damages for trespass;
  - Reduction of storage, disk space, and performance of Plaintiff's and other b. users' computing devices; and
  - Loss of value of Plaintiff's and other users' computing devices. c.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, reserving all rights, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and the Class members, respectfully requests judgment against Defendant as follows:

- A. Certification of the proposed Class, including appointment of Plaintiff's counsel as class counsel:
- В. An award of compensatory damages, including statutory damages where available, to Plaintiff and Class members against Defendant for all damages sustained as a result of Defendant's wrongdoing, including both pre- and post-judgment interest thereon;
  - C. An award of punitive damages;
  - D. An award of nominal damages;
  - E. An order for full restitution;
- F. An order requiring Defendant to disgorge revenues and profits wrongfully obtained:
- G. An order temporarily and permanently enjoining Defendant from continuing the unlawful, deceptive, fraudulent, and unfair business practices alleged in this Complaint;
  - H. For reasonable attorneys' fees and the costs of suit incurred; and
  - I. For such further relief as may be just and proper.

Dated: March 14, 2025

# **GUTRIDE SAFIER LLP** /s/Seth A. Safier/s/ Seth A. Safier (State Bar No. 197427) seth@gutridesafier.com Marie A. McCrary (State Bar No. 262670) marie@gutridesafier.com Todd Kennedy (State Bar No. 250267) todd@gutridesafier.com Kali R. Backer (State Bar No. 342492) kali@gutridesafier.com 100 Pine Street, Suite 1250 San Francisco, CA 94111 Telephone: (415) 639-9090 Facsimile: (415) 449-6469 Attorneys for Plaintiff - 45 -

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT